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ASA-838

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: K. TSUCHIYA et al.  
Serial No.: 09/455,363  
Filed: December 6, 1999  
For: COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL METHOD AND  
INFORMATION RELAYING DEVICE FOR COMMUNICATION  
NETWORK SYSTEM  
Group: 2137  
Examiner: M. Pyzocha

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 1, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 1, 2006, and preliminary to the examination of the RCE being filed concurrently with this amendment, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2.

**Remarks** are included following the amendments.